24th January 1961]

Conference of the State Ministers for Agriculture

* 22 *Q*.—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state the decisions arrived at the Conference of the State Ministers of Agriculture held in the last week of August 1960, at New Delhi, to increase agricultural production during the next five years?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : A copy [a] of the "Conclusions and Recommendations" of the Conference of State Ministers of Agriculture held on 26th and 27th August 1960 at New Delhi, received from the Government of India is placed on the table of the House.

Disposal of bills

* 23 *Q*.—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any time-limit has been fixed for the disposal of salary bills, travelling allowance bills and contingent bills by the Pay and Accounts Office and, if so, what it is; and

(*b*) the procedure prescribed for return of bills under objections?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) (1) No.

(2) Does not arise.

(*b*) Bills, which are found to be defective in any respect, are returned to the drawing officers with a memorandum indicating the objections in detail. They are duly informed of the return of the bills with objections. The token numbers of the bills returned with objections are also exhibited in the notice board of the Pay and Accounts Office.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it a fact, Sir, that the clerical staff of the Pay and Accounts Office wait till the end of the month when some bill is received and then raise some flimsy objections so that they may delay payment as much as possible?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I have no such information, Sir.

Aided elementary schools

* 24 *Q*.—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the conditions, if any, to open aided elementary schools in the State?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The conditions are embodied in Chapter I of Part II of the pamphlet "Rules relating to Elementary Schools", a copy of which is available in the Library of the Legislature.

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 151–155 infra